



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6718

January Session, 2001

***AN ACT CONCERNING STATE GRANTS FOR REGIONAL
EFFICIENCY DEVELOPMENT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Municipality" means any town, city or borough, consolidated
3 town and city or consolidated town and borough;
- 4 (2) "Joint program" means a service, undertaking or operation to be
5 provided or performed in accordance with this section by more than
6 one municipality, either by a municipality for another on a contract
7 basis or in any other manner authorized by law;
- 8 (3) "Political subdivision" means any local authority or district
9 which performs a public function or service in any of the following
10 areas: Fire protection, first aid, social services, community
11 development, community or regional planning or public health; and
- 12 (4) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
13 Management.
- 14 (b) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall
15 provide financial assistance to municipalities for regional efficiency
16 development. Notwithstanding the provisions of the general statutes,
17 grants shall be made to any municipality to provide a joint program

18 that (1) a feasibility study prepared under subsection (d) of this section
19 determines could only be provided on a joint basis; (2) is currently not
20 being provided at all or which, based on the surveys submitted
21 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, is being provided at a level
22 substantially below the minimum needs of the recipients; or (3)
23 consolidates existing service systems to achieve efficiency and
24 economy. Applications for joint program grants may be made covering
25 the following services: (A) Assessment and collection of taxes; (B)
26 maintenance of municipal records and statistics and electronic data
27 processing; (C) building, housing and plumbing code inspection and
28 enforcement; (D) economic development strategies promoting transit
29 oriented designs; (E) solid waste collection and disposal or recycling;
30 (F) air pollution control inspection and enforcement; (G) welfare and
31 social service programs; (H) maintenance and administration of parks
32 and recreational and cultural facilities; (I) maintenance of roads, public
33 works and beaches; (J) fire departments; and (K) energy conservation
34 services.

35 (c) A municipality may apply for a grant under this section to
36 provide for the services specified in subsection (b) of this section. A
37 political subdivision may apply to participate in a joint program and
38 receive financial assistance under this section provided application is
39 made by the municipality in which the political subdivision is located.

40 (d) No grant shall be made unless the applicant has submitted to the
41 secretary a plan of operation based on a feasibility study of the joint
42 program proposed to be conducted. A feasibility study shall include
43 such detailed surveys of existing service standards in the areas to be
44 served by the joint program as may be required by the secretary to
45 determine that a joint program would (1) enable provision of a needed
46 service that would not otherwise be provided, or remedy existing
47 levels of service provision, or otherwise produce better services at
48 relatively lower unit costs or more efficient administration, (2) not
49 adversely affect neighboring local units, and (3) not exclude adjacent
50 municipalities that might benefit from the joint program. Not more
51 than thirty days after submission of the feasibility study, the secretary

52 shall conduct a public hearing in each municipality to be included in
53 the proposed joint program. Not more than thirty days after the last
54 hearing on the feasibility study, the program shall be eligible for aid
55 under this section. If the study recommends establishment of a joint
56 program, not more than six months after the date of the last public
57 hearing on the feasibility study, the legislative body of each
58 municipality that participated in the study shall submit a statement to
59 the secretary indicating its intention to implement the
60 recommendation or detailing its objections to each recommendation
61 made in the feasibility study for establishing a joint program. No joint
62 program shall receive financial assistance unless the legislative body of
63 each municipality has passed identical resolutions ratifying the
64 conditions of the grant.

65 (e) The secretary may provide financial assistance to municipalities
66 to conduct a feasibility study for a joint program.

67 (f) The secretary, upon request of the chief executive officer of a
68 municipality, shall conduct a preliminary survey of the eligibility of
69 the municipality for a grant under subsection (b) of this section with
70 respect to any joint programs specified or suggested in such request.
71 The preliminary survey shall be of sufficient scope and detail to enable
72 the secretary to advise all municipalities and political subdivisions
73 affected by the proposed joint program that a detailed feasibility study
74 is warranted pursuant to this section. The commissioner shall transmit
75 formal notice of the findings and conclusions of the preliminary survey
76 to all municipalities and political subdivisions affected by the
77 proposed joint program.

78 (g) The secretary shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
79 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, for the administration
80 of this section, including establishment of eligibility standards for joint
81 programs and the application processes.

82 (h) The total of all grants under this section to municipalities located
83 in the same planning region designated or redesignated by the

84 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management pursuant to section
85 16a-4a of the general statutes shall be not more than three hundred
86 thousand dollars.

87 Sec. 2. The sum of six million dollars is appropriated to the Office of
88 Policy and Management, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year
89 ending June 30, 2002, for grants pursuant to section 1 of this act.

90 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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JOINT FAVORABLE SUBST. C/R

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